

APPROVED: Meeting No. 43-95

ATTEST: *Paula Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
Meeting No. 31-95

May 30, 1995

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland on May 30, 1995, at 7:35 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor James F. Coyle

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Nina A. Weisbroth

In attendance were Acting City Manager Rick Kuckkahn, City Clerk Paula Jewell, Director of Community Services Josephine Roberts, Director of Public Works Bob Goodin, Senior Civil Engineer Susan Straus, Traffic Engineer Joe Cutro, Director of Recreation and Parks Burt Hall, Finance Department Director Kevin Deckard, and Budget team staff members Susan Fournier and Chris Freel.

Re: City Clerk's Fiscal 96 Budget

Ms. Jewell reported that City Clerk's proposed budget reflects an increase of approximately 8.23% for election expenses this budget year. Some of the increase was due to the hiring of the temporary office staff that would be necessary during the election and the additional funding of a one-year temporary position approved by the Mayor and Council to provide general office help.

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Re: Worksession with City Attorney  
Department Fiscal 96 Budget

The City Attorney's budget will reach \$270,000 this fiscal year. Recent employee Personnel Appeal Board hearings helped to increase the amount over budget. The Mayor and Council noted that the City consistently ran over budget on this account. Councilmember Marrinan said that staff would have to explain why we are exceeding the budgeted amount or he suggested that the true costs needed to be clarified. Mr. Deckard remarked that if special assessments were done in a more timely manner, this would help in keeping legal costs down.

Re: Budget Worksession with City  
Manager

The department is proposing to produce at least two of the twelve issues of Rockville Reports in color; residents would be polled for their responses to this.

Re: Capital Improvements Program  
Budget

The Mayor and Council discussed the following Capital Improvement Program issues:

1. CIP - Recreation and Parks
  - (a) Councilmember Krasnow asked to see a report of what the City has spent at the Beall Dawson House.
  - (b) On page 209 Mayor Coyle noted the ball field improvements. He asked if

the City or the developer of annexed property would be responsible for this. Mr. Hall said that details of this had not been approached yet. They are hoping to have a regional park for all new residents of the Irvington Farm property. Councilmember Krasnow said that she was not pleased to see the existing warm-up field at Dogwood Park already at parking capacity. She also said that the location of the field next to the tennis courts is a distraction.

- (c) Councilmember Marrinan asked if there was a plan for the Fitzgerald Theatre. Mr. Hall responded that there was not yet a master plan for the facility, however, there were some plans for a Nature Center for Fiscal Year 1998 and an outdoor amphitheater.
- (d) Page 215 - Councilmember Krasnow said that outdoor security lighting will help ward off vandalism.
- (e) Councilmember Dorsey said that the Lincoln Park Civic Association did not like the location of playground equipment right in front of the Community Center as it presented safety concerns. Mr. Hall that the equipment was originally moved out of an alley area and put in the front; the cost to move it again would be \$12,000. He said that staff would be talking to the Lincoln Park Civic Association about this matter.
- (f) Regarding the Hiker/Biker trails, the Traffic and Transportation

Commission would like to see more commuter orientation. Mayor Coyle said that now was the time to do this study and if there was any way to fund these proposals while new land was being annexed it needed to be done. Staff was asked to see if this can be moved up in the CIP budget. Based on the study results, staff should program accordingly.

2. CIP - Transportation Issues

- (a) Page 247, speed hump discussion - The Traffic and Transportation Commission is working on guidelines.
- (b) Page 249 - The Mayor and Council commented that the smoothseal program is working well this year.
- (c) Page 251 - Re Carr Avenue Sidewalk - Councilmember Krasnow asked for more background on this issue. The Mayor and Council agreed to move this project up in the CIP program.

3. CIP - Environment

- (a) Page 276, Stream Stabilization Repair and Maintenance - The engineer is developing a longer range plan for all of the stream areas. This is a difficult problem area because the roadway is very close to the stream. Mayor Coyle suggested having photos or videos showing stream erosion problems.

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4. CIP - Community Enhancements

- (a) Page 311 - Regarding the Metro Promenade, the bridge is down, and fiber optics work needs to be completed before construction can proceed.
- (b) Page 312 - Staff should look into the lighting on the north side of North Washington Street which is in need of repair.

Re: Outside Agencies

1. Rockville Housing Authority - RHA requested financial assistance to help with unforeseen expenses for which RHA reserves were insufficient. The Mayor and Council approved the City's Manager's letter informing RHA that the City was not able to provide financial assistance. It was important that the "arms-length" relationship be maintained in the eyes of the auditors. The Mayor and Council agreed that the RHA should be encouraged to seek assistance from other sources. Assistant Chief of Economic Development Ed Duffy should work with state officials to see how RHA can be helped financially.

2. Peerless Rockville - Peerless Rockville requested financial assistance to pay their monthly rent. Mayor Coyle expressed concern that the City might not be able to recover the money based on Peerless' court case, and he suggested collateralizing the Montrose School property. The Mayor and Council agreed that a loan funding rent for one year would be made; however it was noted that Peerless needed to move towards a

more Rockville oriented focus and they needed a business as well as a strategic plan.

Mayor and Council would like to see a fact sheet of Peerless investments, economic development contributions, etc. They would also like to see information from other town historic preservation groups and whether they were involved in investment of real estate.

3. Outside Agencies - Stepping Stones - Mayor and Council would like to see additional detail from this agency regarding how they are serving Rockville residents. The City will fund \$2,000 to Stepping Stones with a caveat that our support will be tied to the referrals they will accept from the City, and the City will have to evaluate the organization next year.

4. Hispanics United for Rockville (HUR) - Josephine Roberts noted that it was difficult to get reports from HUR. Staff learned that few residents (67 out of 327) were being served. HUR was not providing auto mechanic training that the City provided funding for. Councilmember Marrinan noted that conditional language was needed that the City will provide funding once HUR can provide us with the accountability performance standards of their programs. The City might also want to require that 50% of the population served by HUR, be Rockville residents. Mayor and Council agreed to cut HUR funding to \$5,000 and work from a reimbursement, not prepayment basis. Mayor and Council agreed to fund the Latino Outreach Program at \$8,500.

5. Southern Christian Leadership Program (SCLC) - Question was raised why the City funded SCLC rather than the Clinton Computer School directly. Staff was asked

to renegotiate the contract with SCLC for funding for the school.

6. Remaining Issues

- (1) Utility rates - Mayor and Council reviewed the proposed draft of the water bill with the option for residents to donate to REAP.

7. Projected General Fund Revenues - Projected General Fund Revenue data sheets for Fiscal Year 1996 through Fiscal Year 2001 were distributed.

8. Other Issues

- (1) Planning Staff Levels - Mr. Kuckkahn discussed plans to reorganize a clerical position to create an entry level professional planner position. Mayor and Council noted that planning staff needed to take a stronger position on planning matters and look for what is in the best interest of the community and stay on top of land use issues from the County.
- (2) Transition to a Client-Server System - Mr. Kuckkahn noted that this needed to begin as soon as it was possible; the transition is estimated to cost \$250,000 and will take three years; however there are future cost savings. Councilmember Marrinan expressed concern that the start-up costs will not generate any revenue and he noted there was no revenue stream for this. The City Manager was asked to develop some ideas for funding the transition.

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Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the Worksession adjourned at 11:20 p.m. to reconvene in General Session on June 12, 1995 at 7:30 p.m.